

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE GRC-08-01

National Environmental Policy Act Center Master Plan at the NASA Glenn Research Center

AGENCY: NASA Glenn Research Center

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and NASA’s NEPA policy and procedures (14 CFR subpart 1216.3 and NASA Procedural Requirement 8580.1), NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the proposed implementation of the NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC) Master Plan. Implementation of the Master Plan at the NASA GRC Lewis Field and Plum Brook Station (PBS) would strategically position the Center to meet the President’s *Vision for Space Exploration* and enhance the functional and aesthetic value of the two campuses while preserving the historical and cultural features of the Center. Small or insignificant impacts were determined for media analyzed including cumulative effects.

After careful evaluation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and consideration of all the comments, NASA has determined that, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures, the implementation of the Master Plan will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

DATE: XXXX 2008

ADDRESS: NASA Glenn Research Center, Safety, Health, and Environmental Division,
Mail Stop 6-4, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The EA may be obtained by contacting Mr. Aaron Walker, Safety, Health, and Environmental Division at the address listed above or by e-mail at aaron.m.walker@nasa.gov. The EA can also be reviewed at the Cuyahoga County Library-Brook Park Branch located at 6155 Engle Road, Brook Park, OH 44142-2198 or at the Sandusky Library located at 114 West Adams Street, Sandusky, OH 44870.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: NASA initiated a 30-day public review and comment period on [insert date], for the EA for implementation of the Master Plan at NASA GRC. Public comments were considered and incorporated, where appropriate, in the final EA. The NASA has reviewed the final EA and has determined that it represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The final EA is incorporated by reference in this FONSI.

The Proposed Action at NASA GRC is to align both Lewis Field and PBS with the Center's overall mission and to prepare these facilities for the future. Implementing the Master Plan would enhance the functional and aesthetic value of the campus while preserving the historical and cultural features of NASA GRC and would strategically position the Center to meet the President's *Vision for Space Exploration*. The proposed Master Plan involves four phases, beginning in 2008 and would be implemented over 20 years. The action would replace aging buildings in poor condition with new, efficient buildings with improved working environments, better functional relationships, and reduced operating costs. Under the No-Action Alternative, the Master Plan would not be implemented. The No-Action Alternative would prevent implementing critical facility modifications at NASA GRC, thus adversely affecting the Center's ability to support future operations. The NASA GRC's Master Plan working team performed extensive studies and examined multiple alternatives for both Lewis Field and PBS and arrived at the proposed action as the preferred alternative. The Taylor Road concept for Lewis Field would maintain the traditional areas of the campus, provide for additional capabilities, and would promote the development of an organized campus. A strategy for increased utilization was adopted for PBS.

The EA addresses the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action and the No-Action Alternative. Small or insignificant impacts were determined for land use, water quality, geology and soils, natural resources (including threatened and endangered species), socioeconomics, hazardous materials handling and waste disposal, cultural resources, transportation, environmental justice, and cumulative effects.

The principal areas of potential environmental impacts addressed in the EA involve air quality and ambient noise associated with the demolition, construction, and rehabilitation activities at Lewis Field and PBS. While the potential air quality and ambient noise impacts would span the majority of the proposed 20-year activity period, the impacts would be short term, intermittent in nature, end with the completion of the activities, and would not impact any sensitive receptors. Further, air quality and noise impacts are expected to be imperceptible relative to background sources. The NASA GRC would employ reasonably available control measures, as follows, to reduce the impacts to air quality.

Air Quality Mitigation Measures for Lewis Field and Plum Brook Station

The objective of reasonably available control measures is to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne. The NASA GRC follows the reasonably available control measures contained within Ohio Administrative Code 3745-17-08, *Restriction of emission of fugitive dust*. Practices that will be included in contract specifications include:

- Use of water or non-toxic chemicals to control dust around material stockpiles during demolition, construction, grading of roads, or clearing of land.
- Enclose material stockpiles when the use of water or chemicals is not sufficient to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne.
- Install and use hoods, fans, and fabric filters to enclose, contain, capture, and vent particulates from dusty materials where appropriate.
- Provide adequate containment during sandblasting or other similar operations.
- Cover open-bodied trucks that transport materials likely to become airborne.
- Promptly remove from paved streets, dirt or other material that could become airborne.

Implementing the Proposed Action would impact the ambient noise levels at Lewis Field and PBS. Noise would be associated with demolition, construction, and rehabilitation activities. However, the potential impacts are short term, intermittent, and would end with the completion of the activities. A noise analysis was completed in June 2007 and this analysis did not show any instance where the Federal Highway Administration noise criteria indicated the need to consider noise abatement. There is a residential neighborhood adjacent to the West Area of the Lewis Field site, and while the neighborhood is outside any noise criteria requiring abatement, NASA GRC would be good neighbors and potentially limit demolition, construction, and rehabilitation noise-generating activities to 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On the basis of the final EA, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed action and the specified activities identified as within the scope of the final EA would not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

Woodrow Whitlow, Jr.
Director, NASA Glenn Research Center

Date